

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claims 1, 2, 10 and 14 have been amended as shown on pp. 3-5 of the Reply. Claims 17 and 18 are newly added. Support for the amendments and new claims may be found, for example, in the claims as originally filed and in paragraphs [0058] and [0059]. In addition, the specification has been amended as indicated on p. 2.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Objection to Claim 14

Withdrawal of the objection to claim 14 is respectfully requested in view of the amendments set forth above.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-9

Claims 1-9 are rejected to under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-6 of US 6,266,540.

The rejection is respectfully traversed. It is noted that the application has not yet received any indication of allowable subject matter, and that the scope of the claims may change over the course of prosecution so as to obviate the rejection. At such time as allowable subject matter is indicated and alleged double patenting is the sole remaining issue, the filing of a terminal disclaimer will be considered.

III. Rejection of Claims 10 and 12-14

Claims 10 and 12-14 are rejected to under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of US 6,724,753.

The rejection is respectfully traversed. It is noted that the application has not yet received any indication of allowable subject matter, and that the scope of the claims may change over the course of prosecution so as to obviate the rejection. At such time as allowable subject matter is indicated and alleged double patenting is the sole remaining issue, the filing of a terminal disclaimer will be considered.

IV. Rejection of Claim 1 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Baker et al. (US 5,793,751) ("Baker").

The rejection is respectfully traversed. Baker does not support the rejection for at least the reason that Baker fails to disclose "an interface bus that permits said desksets to communicate with said transceiver by exchanging packets with the transceiver, each packet including source, destination and error checking information," as recited in independent claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over Baker. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

V. Rejection of Claims 6-9 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 6-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Baker in view of Harris, Jr. et al. (US 5,754,769) ("Harris").

The rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 6-9 depend on claim 1 and are therefore likewise allowable over Baker for at least reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features they recite. For example, claim 9 recites "a media access layer of said interface bus is carrier sense multiple access with collision detect." The Office Action alleges that Baker discloses these features (Office Action, page 9, first paragraph). However, a careful review of Baker did not reveal any discussion of collision detect.

Harris does not cure the deficiencies in Baker. Accordingly, claims 6-9 are further allowable over the combination of Baker with Harris. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

VI. Rejection of Claims 10-13 and 15-16 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 10-13 and 15-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sabaa et al. (US 6,389,016) ("Sabaa").

The rejection is respectfully traversed. Sabaa does not support the rejection for at least the reason that Sabaa fails to disclose or suggest "performing collision checking on the bus," as recited in claim 10.

In fact, Sabaa is silent regarding "a communication system having a plurality of terminals connected to a common node by a digital interface bus," as further recited in claim 10. Sabaa

only discusses exchanges between a single sender and a single receiver, and consequently fails to suggests a common node connecting a plurality of terminals, as recited in claim 10. Sabaa is therefore necessarily further deficient regarding "performing collision checking on the bus," as noted previously.

Claim 10 is therefore allowable over Sabaa. Moreover, claims 11-13, 15 and 16 are likewise allowable over Sabaa for at least the reason that they depend on claim 10, as well as for the additional features they recite. For example, claim 15 recites "detecting an error based on a block check character in said one of the packets." The Office Action relies on Sabaa's abstract as disclosing the noted features (Office Action, paragraph bridging pages 11 and 12). However, the abstract makes no mention of a block check character in a packet, as recited in claim 15.

Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

VII. New Claims

New claims 17 and 18 are clearly allowable over the art of record. The art of record is clearly deficient concerning "the collision checking is based on a different pre-assigned time-out period for each terminal," as recited in new dependent claim 17, and "wherein each deskset has a different pre-assigned time-out period," as recited in new dependent claim 18.

CONCLUSION

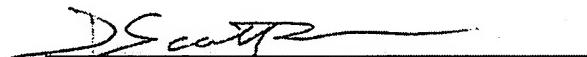
The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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